



Rural District of Marlborough
and Ramsbury

ANNUAL REPORTS

of the

MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH

and

CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH
INSPECTOR

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 1966

MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE (as at December, 1966)

The Rt. Hon. Lord Romilly, Chairman

Councillor W. A. Brown, J.P., Vice-Chairman

Councillor Miss P. E. Courtman	Councillor Lady Jameson
Councillor Capt. K. A. H. Cummins	Councillor Mrs. M. E. Knapp
Councillor R. N. Day	Councillor F. M. Lawton
Councillor A/Cdr. H. H. Down	Councillor D. L. Lemon
Councillor C. Eliot-Cohen	Councillor W. E. T. Lock
Councillor The Hon. Mrs. O. H. Frost, J.P.	Councillor M. S. Peacock
Councillor D. Gauntlett	Councillor The Rev. R. A. Robbins
Councillor Capt. R. E. L. Harvey, J.P.	Councillor W. J. Smith
Councillor T. P. J. G. Hayward	Councillor F. Swanton, O.B.E.
Councillor Major R. D. Horton, J.P.	Councillor D. F. White
Councillor R. J. Horton	Councillor Major R. H. L. Wiggins

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF THE AUTHORITY

Medical Officer of Health:

F. D. F. Steede, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Clerk:

Miss G. M. Boswell

Council Offices, 1 The Green, Marlborough
(Tel. 487 and 118)

Chief Public Health Inspector:

K. F. Hudson, M.A.P.H.I., A.R.S.H.

Additional Public Health Inspector:

D. G. McIntosh, M.R.San.A.

Rodent Officer:

M. W. Welch

Clerk:

Mrs. J. Batty

Public Health Department, R.D.C. Offices, London Road, Marlborough
(Tel. 894)

The Medical Officer of Health acts in a similar capacity for the Borough of Marlborough and the Rural Districts of Amesbury and Pewsey. These combined districts have a population of 66,810 and an area of 235,289 acres. They have appointed a Joint Committee, the East Wiltshire United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Committee, to deal with all matters relating to the office of Medical Officer of Health. The Medical Officer of Health also performs duties for the Wiltshire County Council under the National Health Service, Education and Mental Health Acts.

RURAL DISTRICT OF MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY

East Wilts United Districts (M.O.H.) Office,
1 The Green,
Marlborough.

Telephone 487 and 118.

To The Chairman and Councillors of the Rural District:

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present my annual report for the year 1966, which is compiled on similar lines as last year to comply with the requirements of the Ministry of Health. I am grateful to Mr. Hudson, the Chief Public Health Inspector, for his report which is again included. I am also indebted to Dr. Lycett, the County Medical Officer, for supplying me with details of immunisation procedures carried out, and to Mr. Hampshire, the Water Engineer, Borough of Swindon, for supplying me with a summary of bacterial and chemical analysis.

The district with Marlborough Borough at its centre, extends for a distance of approximately fifteen miles east to west and ten miles north to south, and much of it is situated on downland. It is primarily concerned with agriculture and agricultural pursuits, and there is very little industrial activity in the district apart from this. A certain number of inhabitants, however, find their livelihood in industrial concerns in the nearby Borough of Swindon to the north-east. There has been in common with the rest of the country a tendency for the unemployment figures to rise. This has not, however, reached an unduly high level locally, but the unskilled have undoubtedly found greater difficulties in obtaining jobs. The district is a very pleasant one, with an attraction for visitors, containing as it does the Saver-nake Forest and part of the river Kennet Valley for a great deal of its extent. It has also important archaeological remains, the best known of which is probably the stone circle at Avebury. The district is important from the communication point of view and is traversed by several main routes including for all its width the London to Bristol A4 road. The foreshadowed M4 extension too will pass through a part of the area.

The health of the district has given no cause for anxiety, this is reflected in the vital statistics which are based on the figures supplied by the Registrar-General.

The number of deaths, 119, gives an adjusted death rate of 11.4, slightly higher than last year, but again below the national average. The number of births, 160, is 23 below last year's figure, giving an adjusted birth rate of 16.8, which is slightly below the national figure of 17.7. The natural increase, the excess of births over deaths, is 41, compared with the Registrar-General's estimated figure of 60. This year I am glad to say the infant mortality is well below the national average. There were only two infant deaths, both in the first few hours of life, in which prematurity was an important causative factor. I have again included the figures covering the preceeding four years,

since the rates based on small numbers are not significant, and could lead to misleading conclusions, if any one year is taken separately. Considering the other deaths which have occurred, those certified as from coronary heart disease were 20, exactly double those of last year, which more than accounted for the increase of nine in the total number of deaths. Deaths from malignant diseases were the same, 28, and of these nearly a third were due to cancer of the lung. This is about the same as the national proportion of deaths from lung cancer, which now accounts for well over half of all the deaths from malignant disease in men. I make no apology for emphasising that for practical purposes cigarette smoking is the only known important factor and contributes the cause in at least 85 per cent of all cases. Other diseases particularly associated with cigarette smoking are chronic bronchitis ("the English disease") which cripples for years before it kills, and coronary thrombosis. There is recent evidence which suggests that in the case of coronary thrombosis the death rate of younger heavy cigarette smokers is approximately one and a half to twice that of the non-smoker. Because of the prevalence of coronary thrombosis at the present time this is probably even more important than the association of cigarette smoking with lung cancer. There must be few young cigarette smokers now who are not aware that they are running a risk that their indulgence is very likely to shorten their life by ten to twenty years. One is at a loss to know what more can be done to reduce the incidence of cigarette smoking, although some encouragement is given to those of us who speak to school children on this matter, to find that there has been some reduction nationally in young people who are starting the smoking habit at this time, and I have found this to be the case, particularly in those of average intelligence and above. The Council have so far felt that they cannot support my recommendation that permanent notices "Smoking Discouraged" be displayed in those parts of the Council offices which are open to the general public. Nevertheless, many non-smokers, particularly those with chest complaints suffer considerable discomfort in attending indoor functions at which smoking is permitted, and I feel that the case for prohibition in public places is now overwhelming, where this is practicable.

Infectious disease notifications on the whole have been low. Only fifteen cases of dysentery were notified, a welcome reduction from the 124 of the previous year. These occurred as a result of an outbreak in Marlborough and all in families who had had close connections with the Borough. Thirty-six cases of measles were notified, all but one under ten years of age. A vaccine is now available for this disease which is nowadays almost always mild, but which is always a nuisance to the family concerned and to the general medical practitioner during epidemic periods. I am very pleased to know that at least one general practitioner in the district is making use of this vaccine at present, and I am sure before long its use will become general.

The immunisation figures for diphtheria, whooping cough and tetanus, in infancy are excellent, and those for polio vaccination with the current oral vaccine are if anything better. There must, however, be no slackening off, as we have had some sharp examples of what can happen in other parts of the country in recent years when adequate levels of vaccination in the child population have not been maintained.

Brucellosis is not notifiable, but one case was reported in an adult male associated with a raw milk round. This milk round has been under suspicion for some time, and on which comments were made in last year's annual report when I drew attention to the difficulties in providing the criteria which must be obtained before serving a statutory notice to ensure that raw milk is heat treated before sale. One is glad to know that plans are now in being nationally to eradicate this disease, but it will be some years yet before a great deal can be expected, and since brucellosis is not the only disease which can be spread by raw milk, I would suggest to all parents, of young children particularly, that they obtain milk for their families which is pasteurised.

I am very grateful indeed to the amount of thought and attention which has been given by Mr. Hudson to the important matter of food hygiene, since this is a subject which requires constant supervision to ensure that standards are satisfactory. I make no apology for again referring to the need to handle food, particularly food which is consumed without further cooking, as little as possible and always with clean hands. Where hand washing facilities in food businesses are used communally there are great advantages to be obtained in the provision of the disposable paper towel in reducing the risk of cross-infection. The soiled hand is the most frequent factor encountered when investigating any outbreak of food poisoning, of which this year I am happy to report none was notified. It is for this reason, which is not perhaps generally realised that smoking is a hazard since it leads to the contamination of the fingers by saliva, which may well contain food poisoning bacteria on occasions.

The number of "problem families" in the district is extremely small. That efforts to rehabilitate some of them have been fairly successful is largely due to the hard work of the Health Visiting staff of the County Health Department, Officers of the Children's Department and Mr. Grant of the N.S.P.C.C. The Standing Co-ordinating Committee which meets regularly to discuss these families is invaluable in co-ordinating the efforts of those concerned. In the majority of families with problems, housing is a factor of great importance, and if rehabilitation is to take place, reasonable housing accommodation is a virtual prerequisite. Housing conditions in the district as a whole are reasonably good and the Council have been to great lengths to do all they can to secure the improvement in older properties. At the present time there are, however, 187 people waiting on the housing list, and at the current rate of building little impression is likely to be made on this figure.

The Meals on Wheels Service covering Ramsbury, Bedwyn and Froxfield parishes is a flourishing concern, and supplies a very satisfactory answer to a definite and expanding need which enables old people to lead an independent life in their own homes for a longer period than would be possible without it. I am particularly grateful to all of those voluntary workers who give up so much of their time to undertake this worthwhile service.

The water supply is adequate and satisfactory, and I am indebted to Mr. Hampshire the Water Engineer for the Borough of Swindon for his report. Mr. Hudson has also reported on water supplies, and his Department

with my approval take regular samples which have almost always been entirely satisfactory.

In recent years the Council have made great headway in providing main drainage in the more densely populated areas of the district. There are, however, still some areas which lack this amenity, and it is unfortunate that their provision is likely to be delayed for economic reasons beyond the Council's control.

In spite of the Council's resolution agreeing to fluoridation of public water supplies, another year has passed with little or no headway in its implementation locally. It seems very sad that at a time when this measure is being introduced in other parts of the country, that local children should be deprived, in whole or in part, of the dental benefits which should be theirs at a trifling cost.

In concluding this report I should like to thank the Council and members of the General Purposes Committee for the very great deal of support which they have given me during the year. I am also grateful to the officers of the Council for their helpfulness and consideration, and particularly to Mr. Hudson and his staff for the very hard work which they put in during the year. I should also like to thank Dr. Lishman who acts as my deputy for his ready help and advice. I am very grateful to Dr. Wormald and his staff at the Public Health Laboratory, Odstock, for their continued co-operation often at very short notice. Finally I should like to thank my clerical assistant, Miss Boswell, not only for the conscientious way she has carried out her work during the year, but also for her valued assistance with this report.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient servant,

F. D. F. STEEDE,

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA

Area in acres	94,510
Number of Parishes	25
Population, Registrar-General's mid-year estimate ...	10,370
Number of inhabited houses, flats and bungalows ...	3,561
Rateable value as at 1st April 1966	£233,198
Product of a Penny Rate (estimated)	£863

VITAL STATISTICS

	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
LIVE BIRTHS—Legitimate	81	65	146
Illegitimate	8	6	14
Totals	89	71	160
Live birth rate per 1,000 population			15.4
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births ...			8.8
Stillbirths—Legitimate	—	2	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	—	2	2
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 total live and stillbirths ...			12.3
Total live and stillbirths	89	73	162
DEATHS	66	53	119
Death rate per 1,000 population			11.5
Infant deaths under one year—Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	2
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births			12.5
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births ...			13.7
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			nil
Neonatal deaths (under four weeks)—Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	2
Neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 total live births ...			12.5
Early neonatal deaths (under one week)—Legitimate	2	—	2
Illegitimate	—	—	—
Totals	2	—	2
Early neonatal mortality rate per 1,000 live births ...			12.5
Perinatal mortality rate (stillbirths and deaths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and stillbirths) ...			nil
Maternal mortality (including abortion)			—

Year

	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966
Infant deaths ...	5	6	9	4	2
Infant mortality rate ...	27.9	29.3	49.0	21.9	12.5

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1966

<i>Causes of Death</i>					<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
1	Tuberculosis, respiratory	...	...	...	—	—	—
2	Tuberculosis, other	...	...	...	—	—	—
3	Syphilitic disease	...	...	...	—	—	—
4	Diphtheria	...	...	...	—	—	—
5	Whooping cough	...	...	...	—	—	—
6	Meningococcal infections	...	...	...	—	—	—
7	Acute poliomyelitis	...	...	...	—	—	—
8	Measles	...	...	...	—	—	—
9	Other infective and parasitic diseases	...	...	...	—	—	—
10	Malignant neoplasms, stomach	...	...	...	2	1	3
11	„ „ lung, bronchus	...	...	...	9	2	11
12	„ „ breast	...	...	...	—	1	1
13	„ „ uterus	...	...	...	—	—	—
14	Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	...	...	...	7	6	13
15	Leukaemia, aleukaemia	...	...	...	—	—	—
16	Diabetes	...	...	...	1	1	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system	...	...	...	5	10	15
18	Coronary disease, angina	...	...	...	12	8	20
19	Hypertension with heart disease	...	...	...	4	1	5
20	Other heart disease	...	...	...	7	9	16
21	Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	3	5	8
22	Influenza	...	...	...	—	—	—
23	Pneumonia	...	...	...	3	1	4
24	Bronchitis	...	...	...	4	3	7
25	Other diseases of respiratory system	...	...	...	2	1	3
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	...	...	...	—	—	—
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	...	...	...	—	—	—
28	Nephritis and nephrosis	...	...	...	—	—	—
29	Hyperplasia of prostate	...	...	...	1	—	1
30	Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	...	...	...	—	—	—
31	Congenital malformations	...	...	...	—	—	—
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases	...	...	...	3	3	6
33	Motor vehicle accidents	...	...	...	2	—	2
34	All other accidents	...	...	...	1	—	1
35	Suicide	...	...	...	—	1	1
36	Homicide and operations of war	...	...	...	—	—	—
All Causes					66	53	119

Comparison with England and Wales

	<i>per 1,000 population</i>		<i>per 1,000 Live Births</i>	<i>per 1,000 Total Births</i>
	<i>Live Births (Adjusted)</i>	<i>Death Rate (Adjusted)</i>	<i>Infant Mortality</i>	<i>Stillbirths</i>
Marlborough and Ramsbury R.D.	16.8	11.4	12.5	12.3
England and Wales	17.7	11.7	19.0	15.4

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA

(as at December, 1966)

General Practitioners:

Dr. H. J. Fenn, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., 9 Forest Hill, Great Bedwyn.
Tel.: Great Bedwyn 388.

Dr. W. T. Mills, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	}	Kennet House, Ramsbury. Tel.: Ramsbury 366/7.
Dr. T. J. Tiplady, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.Obst., R.C.O.G.		

Dr. J. B. Maurice, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.	}	The Surgery, 41 High Street, Marlborough. Tel.: Marlborough 587.
Dr. T. K. Maurice, M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.		
Dr. T. R. Maurice, M.A., M.B., B.Chir., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.		
Dr. R. O. Wheeler, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.		

Hospitals:

Savernake Hospital. Tel.: Marlborough 820.

Children's Convalescent Hospital, Marlborough. Tel.: Marlborough 771.

The Princess Margaret Hospital, Swindon. Tel.: Swindon 6231.

Stratton St. Margaret's Hospital. Tel.: Stratton St. Margaret 3331.

Public Health Service:

Odstock Hospital, Salisbury (Dr. P. Wormald). Tel.: Salisbury 6020.

County Council Health Department Services:

(a) Ambulance Facilities

This service is based in Swindon—dial 999.

(b) District Nurse/Midwives

Mrs. J. Nightingale,
4 Barrow Close, Elcot Lane, Marlborough.
Tel.: Marlborough 546.

Mrs. E. Nevin,
18 Whittonditch Road, Ramsbury.
Tel.: Ramsbury 289.

Miss M. Craik,
11 Brook Street, Great Bedwyn.
Tel.: Great Bedwyn 263.

(c) **Health Visitors:**

Miss B. Poulter,
Pear Tree Cottage, Great Bedwyn.
Tel.: Great Bedwyn 283.

Miss E. R. Chesney,
The Barn, Easton Royal.
Tel.: Burbage 248.

Mrs. S. D. Biggs,
16 Somerville Road, Walcot, Swindon.
Tel.: Swindon 21550.

Miss J. Bown,
Corner Cottage, Manningford Bruce.
Tel.: Pewsey 2221.

(d) **Clinics:**

Cervical Cytology Clinic, Health Centre, Kingsbury Street, Marlborough. Tel.: Marlborough 820.	First and Third Tuesday of each month, 2.15-4.15 p.m.
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Infant Welfare Centres:

Marlborough County Council Health Clinic, 8 Kingsbury Street	Every Friday, 2.20-4 p.m.
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Aldbourn Memorial Hall	Third Tuesday of each month, 2.15-4.30 p.m.
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Avebury Club Room	First Wednesday of each month, 2.30-4.30 p.m.
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Ramsbury Memorial Hall, High Street	First Thursday of each month, 2.15-3.30 p.m.
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Health Visitor's Centres

Baydon Mobile Centre Car Park, Red Lion	Fourth Thursday of each month, 2.30–4 p.m.
Broad Hinton, Mobile Centre, The Stores	Third Tuesday of each month, 2 p.m.
Chilton Foliat Village Hall	Second Tuesday of each month, 2.30–3.30 p.m.
East Grafton Village Hall	Fourth Tuesday of each month, 2–4 p.m.
Great Bedwyn Church Reading Room	Second Wednesday of each month. 2.30–4 p.m.
Ogbourne St. George Village Hall	Second Wednesday of each month, 2.30–4 p.m.
Oxenwood Village Hall	Second Tuesday of each month, 2.30–4 p.m.
Winterbourne Bassett Mobile Centre, Post Office	Third Tuesday of each month, 3 p.m.

(e) **Mental Welfare Officer:**

Seymour Clinic, Cricklade Road, Swindon. Tel.: Swindon 5193.

(f) **Chiropody Service:**

This is mainly a domiciliary service.

County Council Welfare Department:

Area Welfare Officer: Mr. A. P. Tucker, A.I.S.W., 66 New Park Street,
Devizes. Tel.: Devizes 3628.

County Council Children's Department:

The Area Children's Officer, 29 Milton Road, Swindon. Tel.:
Swindon 4998.

IMMUNISATION STATISTICS, 1966

Diphtheria, Whooping Cough and Tetanus Immunisation

<i>Year of Birth</i>		1966	1965	1964	1963	1962	1957-61	1951-56	Others under 16
Primary immunisations completed during 1966	Diph.	96	77	8	1	—	9	—	—
	Wh/c.	95	77	6	—	—	5	—	—
	Tet.	96	77	8	1	—	15	77	8
Reinforcing injections administered during 1966	Diph.	—	35	64	16	3	83	3	—
	Wh/c.	—	34	57	8	1	24	—	—
	Tet.	—	35	64	16	3	89	17	1

Smallpox Vaccination

	<i>Months</i>				<i>Years</i>		
<i>Age Group</i>	0-3	3-6	6-9	9-12	1	2-4	5-15
Vaccinations	—	—	3	6	88	23	8
Re-vaccinations	—	—	—	—	—	1	37

Poliomyelitis Immunisation

<i>Age Group</i>	3rd Quad.	2nd inj.	3rd inj. or 4th Quad.	4th inj.	3 oral doses	2 orals after 2 inj.	4th oral after 3 inj. or 3 oral
1966	1	—	—	—	72	—	—
1965	9	—	—	—	134	2	7
1964	2	—	—	—	14	—	3
1963	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
1962	—	—	—	—	4	—	4
1957-61	—	—	—	—	13	11	93
1951-56	—	—	—	—	2	—	3
Others under 16 ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Others over 16 ...	—	—	—	—	9	—	1
Totals	12	—	—	—	249	13	112

WATER SUPPLY

(A report by Mr. Hampshire, B.Sc., A.M.I.C.E., M.I.W.E., Water Engineer, Borough of Swindon)

BACTERIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS, 1966

Source	Water	Total No. of Samples	Samples in which Coliforms were absent		Samples in which Bact. Coli Type I were absent in 100 ml.		Remarks
			No.	%	No.	%	
Clatford	Raw	50	50	100	50	100	Coliforms absent in raw water sample taken on same day.
	Final	48	47	98	47	98	
Great Bedwyn	Raw	48	43	90	48	100	Coliforms absent in raw water sample taken on same day.
	Final	50	49	100	49	100	
Ramsbury	Raw	48	47	98	47	98	
	Final	50	49	98	49	98	
Ogbourne	Raw	96	75	78	92	96	Coliforms absent in raw water sample taken on same day.
	Final	97	97	100	97	100	

CHEMICAL ANALYSIS OF FINAL WATER RESULTS IN PARTS PER MILLION (ppm)

Source	Date of Sample	Non- Carbonate Hardness			Nitrate Nitrogen	Nitrite Nitrogen	Ammoniacal Nitrogen	Albuminoid Nitrogen	Oxygen Absorbed	Fluorides
		Chlorides	Hardness	Total Hardness						
Clatford	15 June 66	10	25	245	4.6	absent	0.00	0.00	0.10	less than 0.1
	29 Dec. 66	11	40	255	4.7	absent	0.03	0.00	0.00	less than 0.1
Great Bedwyn	15 June 66	15	55	325	8.3	less than 0.01	0.04	0.00	0.00	less than 0.1
	29 Dec. 66	16	55	325	8.0	absent	0.03	0.00	0.00	less than 0.1
Ramsbury	15 June 66	9	10	235	3.2	absent	0.00	0.00	0.00	less than 0.1
	29 Dec. 66	11	15	235	3.6	absent	0.03	0.00	0.00	less than 0.1
Ogbourne	15 June 66	15	65	370	5.6	absent	0.00	0.00	0.15	less than 0.1
	29 Dec. 66	17	60	370	5.6	absent	0.03	0.00	0.00	less than 0.1

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1966

Disease	Total cases all ages	Admitted to Hospital	Total Deaths	Analysis of total cases in age groups												
				Under 1 year	1-	2-	3-	4-	5-9	10-14	15-24	25-34	35-44	45-64	65+	Age unknown
Anthrax ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Diphtheria ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery ...	15	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Acute encephalitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Food poisoning ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles ...	36	—	—	1	1	5	6	8	14	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
Meningococcal infections ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid fevers	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Pneumonia ...	1	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal pyrexia	2	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Scarlet fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Smallpox ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Tuberculosis, respiratory ...	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Typhoid fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals ...	55	2	4	1	1	6	7	10	18	3	5	1	1	1	1	—

MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL

Annual Report of the Chief Public Health Inspector

To The Chairman and Members of the Council.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting my eighteenth Annual Report for the year 1966.

Once again I should like to take this opportunity of expressing my thanks to the members of my staff, for their ready assistance in carrying out all the various duties.

I should also like to record my appreciation for the co-operation and help received from Dr. Steede, Mr. A. G. Hunt and all the other members of the Council staff.

I am, Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

KENNETH F. HUDSON,

Chief Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING

General

Fifty-seven new dwellings were completed during the year, eight Council houses and forty-nine for private occupation. No large numbers were erected in any one parish, but scattered throughout the district.

There are approximately 187 applicants on the waiting list for Council houses.

Slum Clearance

The Council declared two clearance areas at Ramsbury. Five houses at Lamplands and five houses in High Street, Ramsbury. Confirmation by the Ministry was not received until early 1967.

One Demolition Order was also made and four dwellings demolished as the result of such Orders.

Housing Improvement Grants

The Council has continued to encourage the public to make use of Improvement Grants when modernising houses and 1966 saw an increase in the number of Standard Improvement Grants. Four Discretionary and twenty-one Standard Grants were made.

Housing Survey

The housing survey of the district continues and a general improvement is observed when a re-inspection of a parish occurs.

WATER SUPPLY

Swindon Corporation is the water undertaking for this area. There is ample water available from the six public water supplies as follows:

Avebury Supply

The scheme supplies water to the parishes of Preshute, Fyfield, West Overton, East Kennet, Avebury, Winterbourne Monkton, Berwick Bassett, Winterbourne Bassett and Broad Hinton. The pumping station is situated at Clatford and pumps the water from the lower chalk 150 feet deep to a reservoir on Totterdown. There is also a balancing tank erected at Broad Hinton. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station.

Baydon Supply

This supplies the parish of Baydon and the water is obtained from Berkshire. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station and pumped to a tower in Baydon. Practically the whole parish is connected to the supply.

Bedwyn Supply

This scheme supplies water to the villages of Chisbury, Great Bedwyn, Ham, Shalbourne, Wilton and Grafton. It also supplies a farm and several cottages at St. Katherine's in the Pewsey Rural District.

The water is pumped from boreholes at Little Bedwyn to two reservoirs, one at Chisbury and the other at Shalbourne. The water is taken from the lower chalk and is chlorinated at the pumping station.

Ogbourne Supply

The water for this supply is obtained at Whitefield, Ogbourne St. George. The water is boosted to a reservoir on the downs and gravitates to the two parishes of Ogbourne St. Andrew and Ogbourne St. George and to the Military Camp. The majority of the properties in both parishes are connected to the mains. The water is chlorinated at Whitefield.

Ramsbury Supply

This scheme supplies water to the parishes of Aldbourne, Chilton Foliat, Froxfield, Mildenhall and Ramsbury. The water is pumped from the greensand at Ramsbury to a reservoir north of the village and is chlorinated at the pumping station.

Savernake Supply

This water is obtained in bulk from the Borough of Marlborough supply. The main runs from the top of Postern Hill through the front of Savernake Forest to Iron Gates and supplies Savernake Hospital, two farms and several cottages. The water is chlorinated at the pumping station.

Water Samples

Monthly samples were taken from each supply throughout the year. It is necessary to maintain this regular check on the cleanliness of the supplies even though little trouble is anticipated and satisfactory laboratory returns are the rule.

One sample, taken from Baydon in the latter half of the year, was found to contain slight non-faecal caliform bacilli. This degree of pollution is extremely small but, as a safeguard, the supply was re-sampled at various points and three subsequent samples were found to be satisfactory.

Each of the supplies were chemically analysed and all were returned as crystal clear, colourless water with no harmful chemical deposits.

<i>Supply</i>				<i>No. of Samples Taken</i>	<i>No. of Samples Satisfactory</i>	<i>No. of Samples Slightly Unsatis- factory</i>	<i>No. of Samples Not Satisfactory</i>
Avebury	...	...	...	12	12	—	—
Baydon	...	...	...	14	13	1	—
Bedwyn	...	...	...	12	12	—	—
Ogbourne	...	...	...	12	12	—	—
Ramsbury	...	...	...	12	12	—	—
Savernake	...	...	...	12	12	—	—
Totals				74	73	1	—

The following table gives the numbers of dwelling-houses and population supplied from the public water mains. There are no standpipes in the district.

<i>Parishes</i>				<i>Direct to Houses</i>	
				<i>Houses</i>	<i>Population</i>
Aldbourne	...	...	...	418	1,254
Avebury	...	...	...	130	390
Baydon	...	...	...	114	342
Berwick Bassett	...	...	...	14	42
Broad Hinton	...	...	...	69	207
Chilton Foliat	...	...	...	87	261
East Kennett	...	...	...	14	42
Froxfield	...	...	...	90	270
Fyfield	...	...	...	25	75
Grafton	...	...	...	89	267
Great Bedwyn	...	...	...	271	813
Ham	...	...	...	23	69
Little Bedwyn	...	...	...	36	108
Mildenhall	...	...	...	92	276
Ogbourne St. Andrew	...	...	...	68	204
Ogbourne St. George	...	...	...	96	288
Preshute	...	...	...	8	24
Ramsbury	...	...	...	416	1,248
Savernake	...	...	...	5	15
Shalbourne	...	...	...	121	263
West Overton	...	...	...	131	293
Winterbourne Bassett	...	...	...	37	111
Winterbourne Monkton	...	...	...	35	105
Totals				2,389	6,967

Apart from the public supplies there are several private piped supplies which are satisfactory.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE

There are sewerage systems in the villages of Aldbourne, Baydon, Chilton Foliat, Froxfield, Grafton, Great Bedwyn, Ramsbury, Shalbourne and Wilton.

A start has been made in the scheme for Broad Hinton, which should be completed during 1967. Detailed plans for the provision of sewers in Avebury, East Kennett, West Overton and Fyfield are in course of production.

Consideration is being given to further schemes for Mildenhall, Ogbourne St. Andrew and Ogbourne St. George.

REFUSE COLLECTION AND SALVAGE

A weekly collection of refuse is made and, due to the increase of household refuse, it was decided to purchase a new collection vehicle. For economy a much larger vehicle was contemplated and in October, after several enquiries, a 50 cu: yd. Eagle Crushload was delivered. The vehicle it replaced was worn out and sold for scrap.

The driver of the new vehicle attended a short course for instruction in the handling and maintenance of the machine and this has proved helpful. Unfortunately, "teething" troubles have arisen due, not to handling, but the design, and this has necessitated some expense to the Council for the hire of other vehicles and overtime for the collectors.

The following table shows the salvage collections for 1966 as compared with 1965. The figures for 1966 show a decrease in the sale of all scrap due to the country's economic "squeeze" which forced the factories to limit their collections from us and to a reduction in the price they paid for the scrap.

	1965						1966					
	Weight			Value			Weight			Value		
	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.	T.	C.	Q.	£	s.	d.
Paper	120	5	3	853	0	0	101	2	0	712	14	10
Rags	3	2	1	37	7	0	1	14	3	7	7	6
Scrap Iron	58	10	2	58	10	2	25	16	3	32	7	0
Totals	181	18	2	£948	17	2	128	13	2	£752	9	4

FOOD

Food Premises

The following table indicates the number and type of food premises registered with the Authority at the end of the year.

Bakehouses	...	...	5
Butchers	...	...	6
Cafes	...	...	6
Caterers (licensed)	...	...	7
Confectioners	...	...	6
Fishmongers	...	...	1
Greengrocers	...	...	1
Grocers	...	...	39
Public Houses	...	...	24
Others	...	...	6
Total			101

At Baydon a new butcher's establishment was opened in complete compliance with the Food Hygiene Regulations. A grocer's shop was closed during the year.

Two more public houses became classed as caterers (licensed) and this is a continuation of the increasingly popular trend for the publicans to serve meals as well as snacks, sandwiches, etc., to their clientel. I feel that in the future this practise will increase and the danger here is that certain establishments will attempt to undertake the provision of meals where existing kitchen facilities make such a proposition unacceptable both from the hygiene and efficiency view-points. However, an awareness of this problem ensures careful consideration of each case as it occurs.

Another problem which arises is the lack of display space and therefore a reluctance to use up what space there is with display cabinets. The publican may also argue that sales are affected by cabinets which, in their opinion, make the food appear less attractive and enticing. This argument seems to have little foundation, however, as food is far more attractive to the prospective consumer when it is protected from the various forms of contamination.

During the year a cafe in the district was found to be lacking in several aspects of the Food Hygiene Regulations and an intimation was served under the Food Hygiene Act requiring the proprietor to carry out such works to bring his establishment up to the necessary standard. By the end of the year a great deal of the work had been completed and the remainder was in hand.

Routine inspections continued throughout the year and the majority of premises were found to be in a satisfactory condition.

Food Hygiene (General) Regulations, 1960

(1) Number of premises	...	...	...	...	101
(2) Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 16	...	...	...	...	87
(3) Number of premises to which Regulation 19 applies	...	...	...	...	94
(4) Number of premises fitted to comply with Regulation 19	...	...	...	...	94

Fourteen premises do not have separate wash-hand basin facilities, but in most cases these are small rural businesses selling mainly pre-packed goods and using the domestic facilities which adjoin the shop premises. In some of these small shops there is insufficient space for the installation of wash-hand basins.

Registered Premises

Number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the sale of ice-cream	39
Number of premises registered under Section 16 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, for the manufacture of preserved foods ...	6

MILK

The number of dealers selling milk by retail in the Rural District is now 16 (sixteen).

This figure includes the loss of one producer/retailer who decided in August to sell his raw milk for heat treatment.

Sampling

The following table shows the number of samples taken during the year.

	<i>Standard Test</i>		BIOLOGICAL			
			<i>Tubercle bacillus</i>		<i>Brucella abortus</i>	
	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Satisfactory</i>	<i>Unsatisfactory</i>
Untreated	47	2	30	—	30	8
Pasteurised	129	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	176	2	30	—	30	8

The eight unsatisfactory *Brucella Abortus* samples and the samples failing the standard test were from two cows in the same herd. A detailed examination was made of a producer/retailer's herd as a result of a consumer developing brucellosis. All the milk was sent for heat treatment while investigations were being carried out. The tests revealed the *brucella* in two cows and the necessary restrictions were placed on them.

DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT

Regular inspection of the district, especially the farms and business premises, was continued throughout the year. Generally speaking it is possible to do this twice in twelve months.

As before, the killing was by means of Warfarin and no troubles were experienced.

	<i>Local Authorities</i>	<i>Private Properties</i>	<i>Farms</i>	<i>Business Properties</i>	<i>Total</i>
No. of inspections made	67	1,311	351	195	1,896
No. of properties inspected	17	1,021	272	165	1,475
No. of properties infested with rats ...	6	228	51	21	306
No. of properties infested with mice ...	—	7	—	3	10
No. of treatments ...	29	235	51	24	339

Total number of visits made under the Damage by Pests Act, 1949 ... 3,080

OFFICES, SHOPS AND RAILWAY PREMISES ACT, 1963

This Act, in some respects, duplicates the statutory supervision of premises already provided by the Factories Act and the Food Hygiene Regulations with certain specific requirements pertaining directly to the protection of employees with regard to working facilities and conditions.

Few proprietors today have little regard for the employee and as a result the Act has a limited application. Such provisions as cold working conditions, lack of seating accommodation, washing facilities and the provision of drinking water are, in the main, problems of the past and employees today would rebel against the lack of such essential facilities and against uncomfortable conditions.

Valuable aspects of the Act are covered by the sections regarding the adequate protection of machinery, cleansing of machinery, first aid, ventilation and lighting. However, considering specifically lighting provisions, such an aspect, when applied to small shops converted from old domestic properties, with only a small local trade, appears, and is, impossible to apply to the full requirements of the Act.

Urban office blocks, etc., are ideally covered by the Act, but from a rural district point of view, with statutory coverage already provided to bring our small rural businesses up to an acceptable standard, I feel that unnecessary work duplication is being created and the specific application to certain premises and areas where undoubtedly such legislation is of great assistance to the Inspector, would have been more realistic. The certain valuable aspects mentioned previously would have been more acceptable to employers if distributed as additions to existing legislation which they had grown to accept and which they had learned to understand.

Two hundred and twenty-seven inspections of premises were carried out during the year.

The number of premises registered are as follows:

	<i>Number</i>	<i>Employees</i>		<i>Total</i>
		<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	
Offices	23	35	48	83
Retail Shops	32	30	34	64
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses ...	1	5	—	5
Catering Establishments ...	7	14	32	46
Fuel Storage Depots	2	9	1	10
	—	—	—	—
Totals	65	93	115	208
	—	—	—	—

In Broad Hinton one premises ceased during the year and another changed hands and came within the jurisdiction of the Act.

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

There are thirty factories registered within the district of various types. Twenty-seven are catagorised as power and three as non power.

In the non-power factories it is the responsibility of the Local Authority for the whole of the premises. In those with power the Local Authority is only responsible for sanitary accommodation.

One hundred and thirty-nine inspections were made throughout the year. Contraventions were of a minor nature and remedial measures were, in most cases, carried out without delay.

Five persons were notified as outworkers living within the district during 1966.

SUMMARY OF INSPECTIONS MADE DURING THE YEAR 1966

Bakehouses	...	...	...	...	...	14
Building Regulations:						
Foundations	...	...	...	...	55	
Damp-Proof Course	...	...	...	...	60	
Drains	...	...	...	...	187	
Work in progress	...	...	...	...	356	
Completion	...	...	...	...	64	
Unclassified	...	...	...	...	5	
					—	727
Butchers' Shops	...	...	...	...	...	21
Cafes, etc.	...	...	...	...	...	50
Council House Enquiries	...	...	...	...	...	65
Factories	...	...	...	...	...	139
Food Premises	...	...	...	...	...	259
Housing	...	...	...	...	...	368
Housing Improvement Grants	...	...	...	...	...	68
Infectious Diseases	...	...	...	...	...	99
Meat Inspections and Condemnation	...	...	...	...	...	5
Milk Samples	...	...	...	...	...	208
Milk and Dairies	...	...	...	...	...	140
Nuisances	...	...	...	...	...	48
Offices, Shops and Railway Premises	...	...	...	...	...	227
Petroleum	...	...	...	...	...	150
Rats and Mice—Inspections and Treatments	...	...	...	...	...	3,080
Refuse Collection	...	...	...	...	...	254
Town Planning	...	...	...	...	...	152
Water Supply	...	...	...	...	...	26
Water Samples	...	...	...	...	...	86
Unclassified	...	...	...	...	...	12
						—
				Totals	...	6,198
						—

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH IN RESPECT OF THE YEAR 1966 FOR THE RURAL DISTRICT OF MARLBOROUGH AND RAMSBURY IN THE COUNTY OF WILTSHIRE

Prescribed Particulars on the Administration of the Factories Act, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1—*Inspections* for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

<i>Premises</i> (1)	<i>Number on Register</i> (2)	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i> (3)	<i>Written Notices</i> (4)	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i> (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	3	11	—	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	27	128	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	—	—	—	—
Total ...	30	139	—	—

2—Cases in which *Defects* were found:

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	7	7	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2)	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)					
(a) Insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective ...	14	14	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes ...	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not includ- ing offences relating to Outwork) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	21	21	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT
(Sections 133 and 134)
NIL RETURN

